

The Honorable Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 0050
Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports -
Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**

To the Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Matthew Smith, I am a resident of Baltimore City, District 45. I am writing to name my opposition to SB0050 the "Fairness In Girls' Sports Act". This bill does not protect girls in sports, it exposes **all** girls to more harm by creating an environment of fear, encouraging false allegations, and laying the groundwork for invasive and discriminatory screenings that open the door to abuse by coaches, doctors, and other athletic staff.

All girls who do not conform to gender stereotypes are at risk of harassment. A cisgendered girl who has short hair, wears baggy clothing or has muscles due to their sports training— like the 16yr old girl from Utah in 2024, had her gender questioned by an adult on the State Board of Education via social media. This ignited a campaign of cyberbullying towards a girl whose only offense was not fitting into gender norms.

Rather than protecting women's sports, bills like SB0050 bans on trans girls in sports encourage bullying, discrimination, and even violence against women and girls. Subjecting all girls to invasive genital inspections, to prove they are girls increases the well documented risk of athletes being abused by coaches and team doctors.

Personally, I have two girls I consider my nieces in Maryland public schools, one starting middle school and the other in high school, both involved in extracurriculars including sports. I worry not only for their safety at the hands of coaches, but also for their friends who are non-binary or trans, who would be excluded from activities if this legislation passes, and make them targets for even more harassment than they already face. This bill is fearmongering, it is transphobic, and most importantly it is using children for some political win.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB0050 an unfavorable report.**

For more information please reach out to Charlotte Hoffman (they/she) • Trans Maryland • 317-446-4326 •
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